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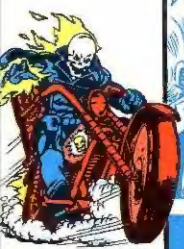

TM

GHOST RIDER

TM

THIS DEMON LUSTS FOR *VENGEANCE*--

--BEWARE HIS SEARING TOUCH!

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SCOTTIE in A Cracker Jack story
OKAY, SCOTTIE! THE SCORE IS TIED, BASES LOADED, AND TWO OUTS! GET IN THERE AND SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF.
COACH
I'LL DO MY BEST, COACH.
15 CRACKER JACKS
STRIKE ONE!
¡GULP! WHAT IF I STRIKE OUT?!??
STRIKE TWO!
YOU CAN DO IT, SCOTTIE!
YOU'RE A CRACKER JACK.
ZOOM!
WHAP!
WHEN YOU'RE REALLY GOOD-THEY CALL YOU CRACKER JACK
CRACK HOME RUN
YOU DID IT, SCOTTIE.
WE WON THE PLAYOFFS!
WHAT A CRACKER JACK!
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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER!®

HOLDING ON TO SALLY

THE MOTORCYCLE ROARS DOWN THIS SPECTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BACK-ROAD, ITS HEADLIGHT CUTTING A PITIFUL SWATH THROUGH THE DARKNESS AND RAIN...

STORY J. M. DeMATTEIS

AT FIRST, THE BIKER DOESN'T SEE THE FIGURE STANDING UP AHEAD, SHOULDERS HUNCHED AGAINST THE DOWNPOUR.

ART DON PERLIN & DAVE SIMONS & TOM SUTTON

WHEN HE DOES FINALLY TAKE NOTICE, THE BIKER'S HANDS TREMBLE VIOLENTLY — FOR THERE SEEMS SOMETHING SINISTER IN THE SHAPE...

...SOMETHING HELLISH IN ITS MOVEMENTS.

THEN, LIGHTNING ILLUMES THE NIGHT... AND THE BIKER LEARNS THAT WHAT HE'D TAKEN TO BE A MONSTROUS CREATURE IS, IN REALITY, A STORM-BEDRAGGLED YOUNG WOMAN.

JOHNNY BLAZE, THE GHOST RIDER, CURSES THE INNER DEMON THAT HAS SO COLORED HIS PERCEPTIONS OF THE OUTER WORLD - THAT HAS CONFUSED UGLINESS WITH BEAUTY...

...THE PITS OF HADES WITH THE GATES OF HEAVEN...

BOY, AM I EVER GLAD TO SEE YOU!

ALBERS * LETTERER ROUSSOS * COLORIST DeFALCO * EDITOR SHOOTER * CHIEF

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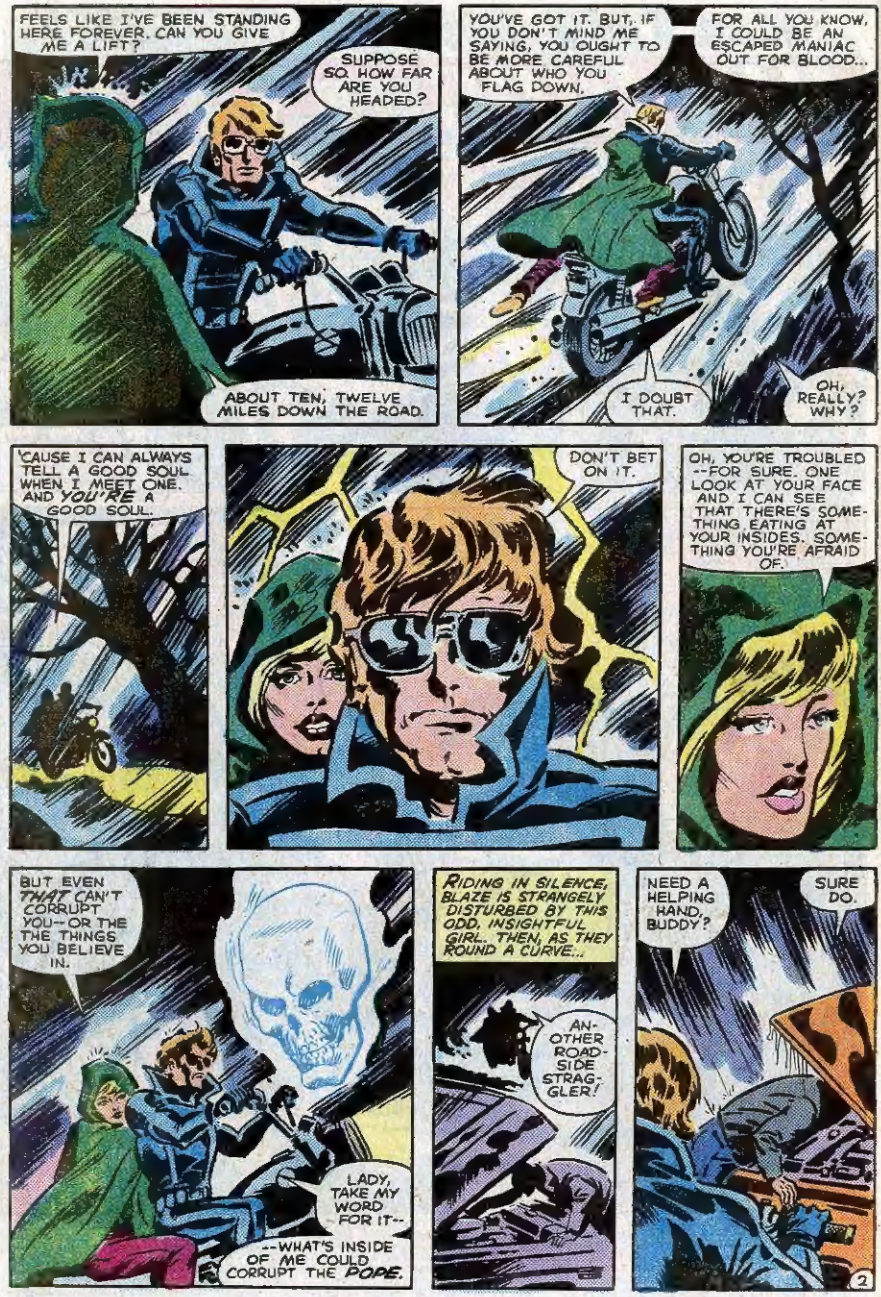
FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN STANDING HERE FOREVER. CAN YOU GIVE ME A LIFT?
SUPPOSE SO. HOW FAR ARE YOU HEADED?
ABOUT TEN, TWELVE MILES DOWN THE ROAD.
YOU'VE GOT IT. BUT, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING, YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT WHO YOU FLAG DOWN.
FOR ALL YOU KNOW, I COULD BE AN ESCAPED MANIAC OUT FOR BLOOD...
I DOUBT THAT.
OH, REALLY? WHY?
'CAUSE I CAN ALWAYS TELL A GOOD SOUL WHEN I MEET ONE. AND YOU'RE A GOOD SOUL.
DON'T BET ON IT.
OH, YOU'RE TROUBLED --FOR SURE. ONE LOOK AT YOUR FACE AND I CAN SEE THAT THERE'S SOMETHING EATING AT YOUR INSIDES. SOMETHING YOU'RE AFRAID OF.
BUT EVEN THAT CAN'T CORRUPT YOU--OR THE THE THINGS YOU BELIEVE IN.
LADY, TAKE MY WORD FOR IT--
--WHAT'S INSIDE OF ME COULD CORRUPT THE POPE.
RIDING IN SILENCE, BLAZE IS STRANGELY DISTURBED BY THIS ODD, INSIGHTFUL GIRL. THEN, AS THEY ROUND A CURVE...
AN-OTHER ROAD-SIDE STRAG-GLER!
NEED A HELPING HAND, BUDDY?
SURE DO.
2

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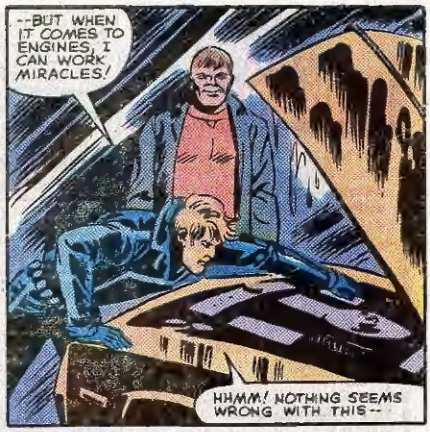
...CAN'T SEEM TO GET THIS OLD HEAP STARTED. CARBURETOR TROUBLE, I THINK.
HERE, LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT HER.
THERE AREN'T MANY THINGS IN THIS WORLD I CAN TOUCH WITHOUT SCREWING UP--



IT WAS THE OLDEST SET-UP IN THE BOOK -- AND HE FELL FOR IT, LIKE A FIRST-CLASS FOOL.
INSTANTLY, BLAZE REALIZES THAT THESE MEN ARE NOT INTERESTED IN MONEY...
IT'S THE BLOOD-SPORT THEY'RE HUNGERING FOR: THE THRILL OF MINDLESS VIOLENCE. HE THINKS OF THE GIRL, WHAT THEY MIGHT DO TO HER...

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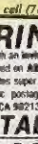

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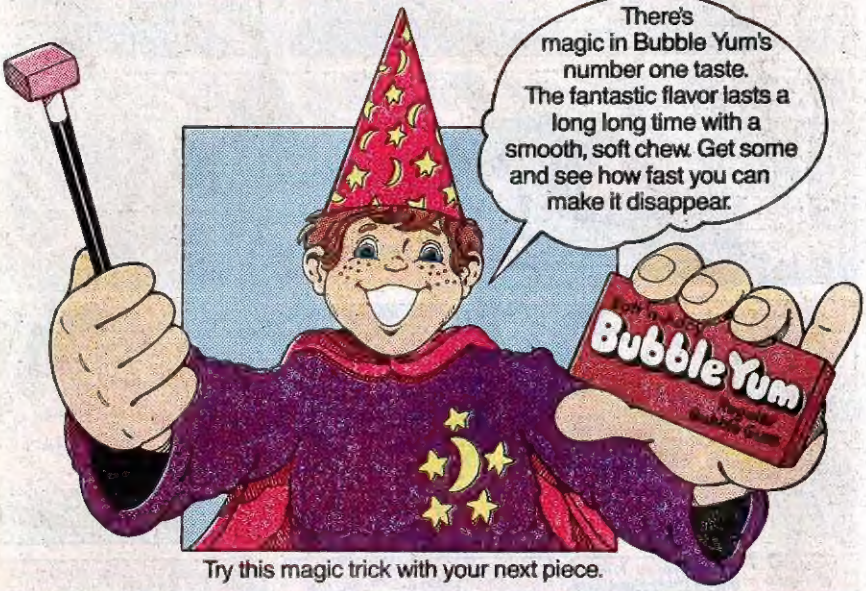
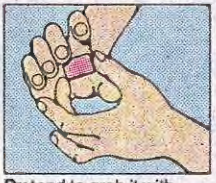

There's magic in Bubble Yum's number one taste. The fantastic flavor lasts a long long time with a smooth, soft chew. Get some and see how fast you can make it disappear.
Bubble Yum

Try this magic trick with your next piece.

Hold the Bubble Yum between the thumb and middle finger of your left hand.



Pretend to grab it with your right hand while you really drop it into the palm of your left hand.

Keep the fingers of your right hand loose as if they had the gum.

Point with the left hand while you secretly hold the gum in your palm.

Say "Presto chango!" and open your right hand to show that the Bubble Yum has magically disappeared.

Then you can make the Bubble Yum disappear the easy way—and try the number one taste.

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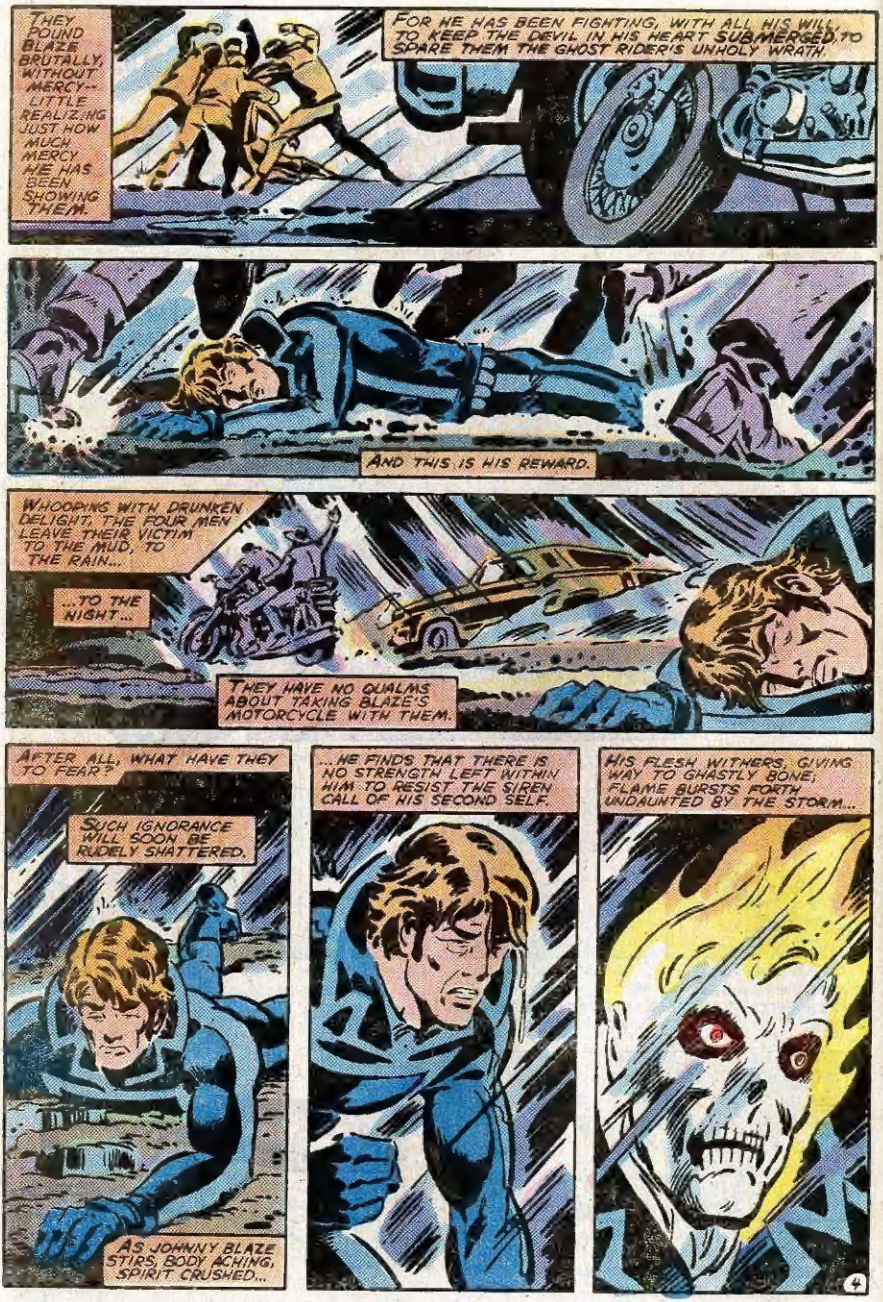
THEY FOUND BLAZE BRUTALLY, WITHOUT MERCY— LITTLE REALIZING JUST HOW MUCH MERCY HE HAS BEEN SHOWING THEM.
FOR HE HAS BEEN FIGHTING, WITH ALL HIS WILL, TO KEEP THE DEVIL IN HIS HEART SUBMERGED, TO SPARE THEM THE GHOST RIDER'S UNHOLY WRATH.
AND THIS IS HIS REWARD.
WHOOPING WITH DRUNKEN DELIGHT, THE FOUR MEN LEAVE THEIR VICTIM TO THE MUD, TO THE RAIN...
...TO THE NIGHT...
THEY HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT TAKING BLAZE'S MOTORCYCLE WITH THEM.
AFTER ALL, WHAT HAVE THEY TO FEAR?
SUCH IGNORANCE WILL SOON BE RUDELY SHATTERED.
AS JOHNNY BLAZE STIRS, BODY ACHING, SPIRIT CRUSHED...
...HE FINDS THAT THERE IS NO STRENGTH LEFT WITHIN HIM TO RESIST THE SIREN CALL OF HIS SECOND SELF.
HIS FLESH WITHERS, GIVING WAY TO GHASTLY BONE; FLAME BURSTS FORTH UNDAUNTED BY THE STORM...
4

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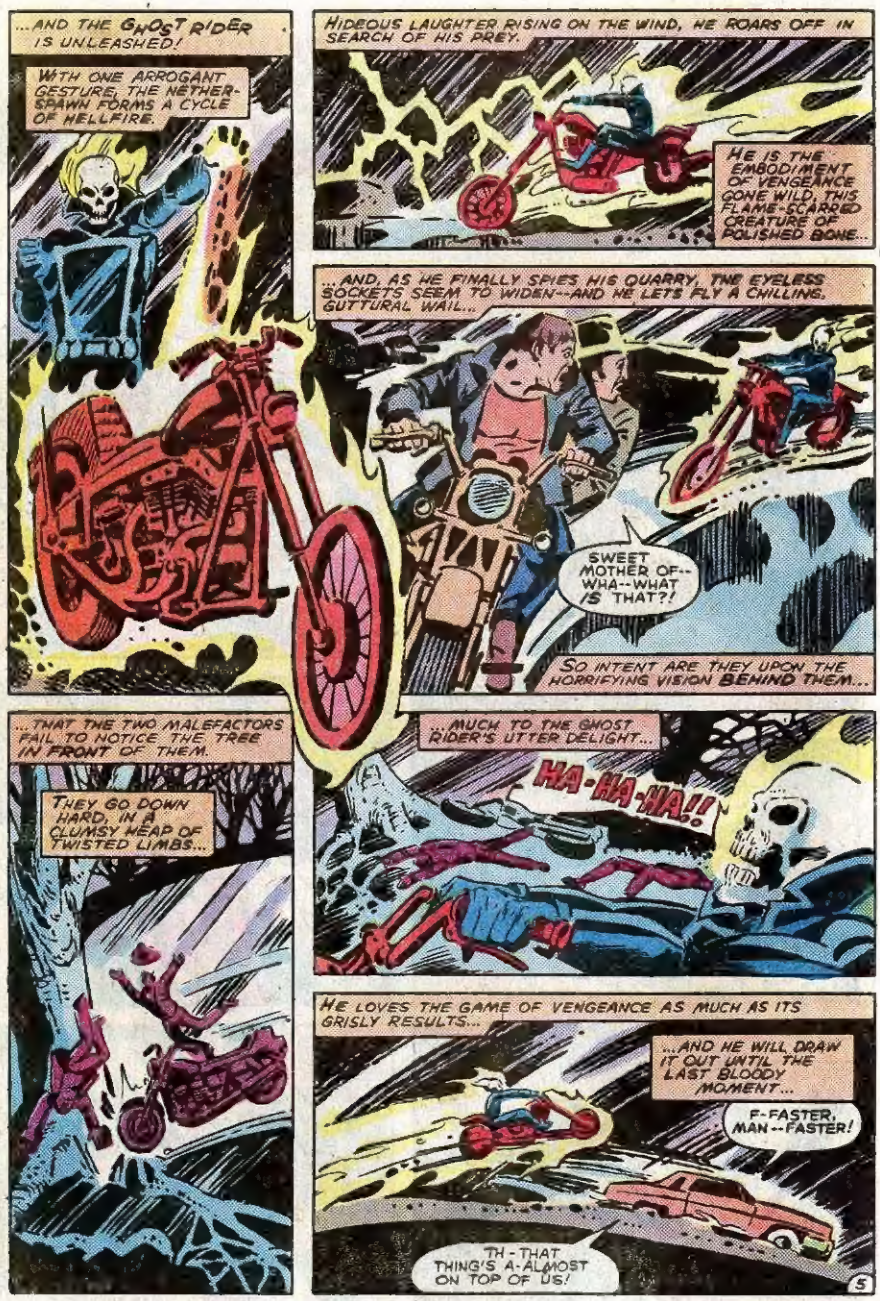
...AND THE GHOST RIDER IS UNLEASHED!
WITH ONE ARROGANT GESTURE, THE NETHER-SPAWN FORMS A CYCLE OF HELLFIRE.
HIDEOUS LAUGHTER RISING ON THE WIND, HE ROARS OFF IN SEARCH OF HIS PREY.
HE IS THE EMBODIMENT OF VENGEANCE GONE WILD, THIS FLAME-SCARRED CREATURE OF POLISHED BONE...
...AND, AS HE FINALLY SPIES HIS QUARRY, TWO EYELESS SOCKETS SEEM TO WIDEN--AND HE LETS FLY A CHILLING, GUTTURAL WAIL...
SWEET MOTHER OF-- WHA--WHAT IS THAT?!
SO INTENT ARE THEY UPON THE HORRIFYING VISION BEHIND THEM...
...THAT THE TWO MALEFACTORS FAIL TO NOTICE THE TREE IN FRONT OF THEM.
THEY GO DOWN HARD, IN A CLUMSY HEAP OF TWISTED LIMBS...
...MUCH TO THE GHOST RIDER'S UTTER DELIGHT...
HA-HA-HA!!
HE LOVES THE GAME OF VENGEANCE AS MUCH AS ITS GRISLY RESULTS...
...AND HE WILL DRAW IT OUT UNTIL THE LAST BLOODY MOMENT...
F-FASTER, MAN--FASTER!
TH-THAT THING'S A-ALMOST ON TOP OF US!
5

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WHADDAYA MEAN--ALMOST?!
WAK
HA-HA-HA!
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME, DOGS! YOUR LIVES ARE MINE!
THE VOICE IS SICKENINGLY UNHUMAN--CALLING UP VISIONS OF VIOLENT DEATHS, COLD GRAVES, DECAYING FLESH..
THEN, ALL DARK VISIONS ARE DISPERSED BY A GLIMMER OF HOPE...
L-LOOK! IT'S TAKIN' OFF--
--IT'S GONNA LEAVE US ALONE!
BUT HOPE DIES QUICKLY...
AS THE BRIMSTONE BIKER TURNS...
AND TWO MEN SEE THEIR OWN MORTALITY...
...FACE-TO-FACE!
SCREAMS MINGLE WITH THE SCREECH OF TIRES.
THOOM
SKREE
THE CAR SWERVES, CRASHES INTO A NEARBY DRAINAGE DITCH.
UNINJURED, THE MEN ATTEMPT TO FLEE...
6

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YOU
HIS DAMAGED BIKE. H
BARELY HEARS H
THE RINGING IN HIS EARS...
JOHNNY, YOU'RE HURT AND NEED HELP! THERE'S A HOUSE DOWN THIS ROAD. CAN YOU MAKE IT?
EER AGONY; EACH BREATH A

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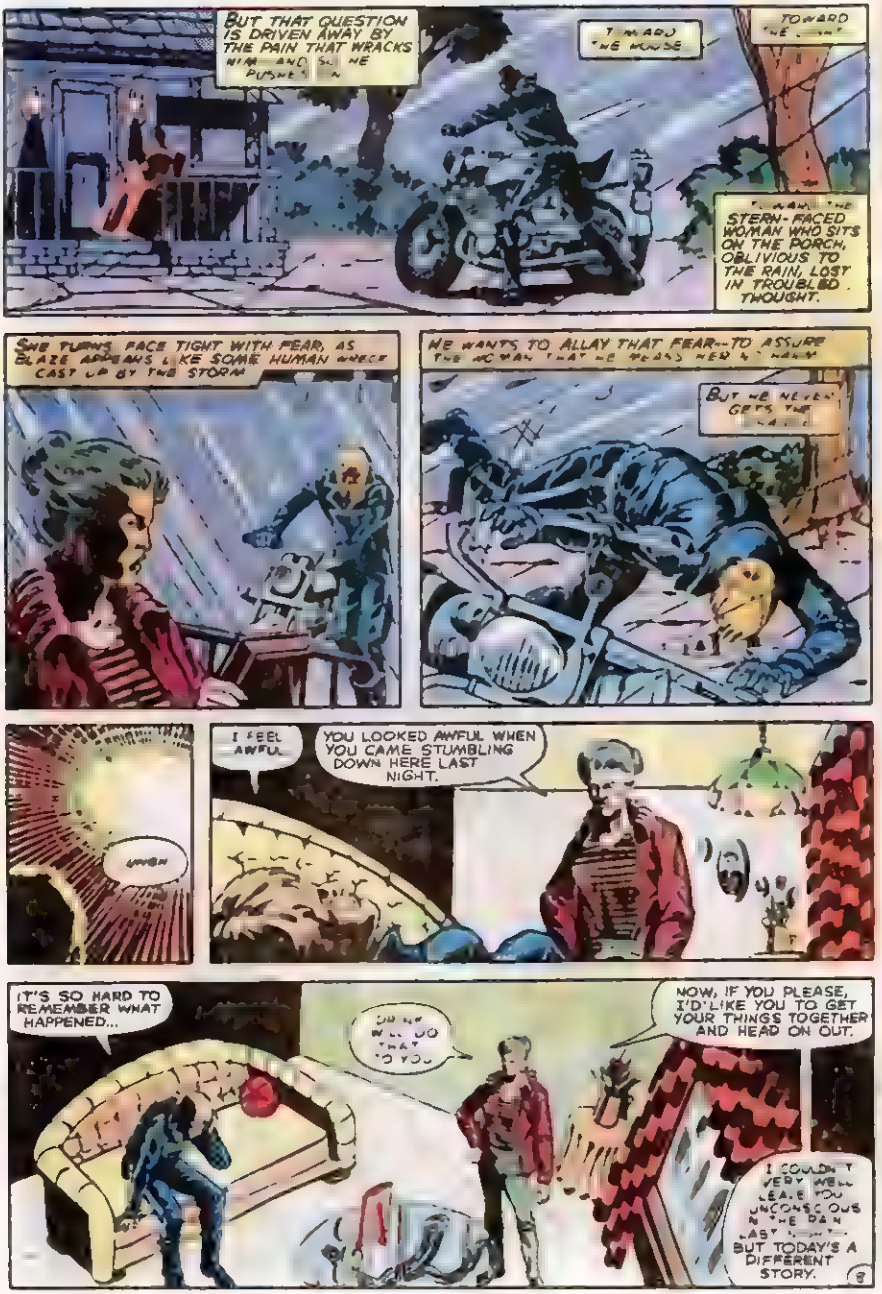
BUT THAT QUESTION IS DRIVEN AWAY BY THE PAIN THAT WRACKS HIM—AND SO HE PUSHES ON
I WARD THE HOUSE
TOWARD THE
I WARN THE STERN-FACED WOMAN WHO SITS ON THE PORCH, OBLIVIOUS TO THE RAIN, LOST IN TROUBLED THOUGHT.
SHE TURNS PALE TIGHT WITH FEAR, AS BLAZE APPEARS LIKE SOME HUMAN WRECK CAST UP BY THE STORM
HE WANTS TO ALLAY THAT FEAR—TO ASSURE THE WOMAN THAT HE MEANS HER NO HARM
BUT HE NEVER GETS THE
UHHH
I FEEL AWFUL.
YOU LOOKED AWFUL WHEN YOU CAME STUMBLING DOWN HERE LAST NIGHT.
IT'S SO HARD TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED...
DID HE WILL DO THAT TO YOU
NOW, IF YOU PLEASE, I'D LIKE YOU TO GET YOUR THINGS TOGETHER AND HEAD ON OUT.
I COULDN'T VERY WELL LEAVE YOU UNCONSCIOUS IN THE RAIN LAST
BUT TODAY'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
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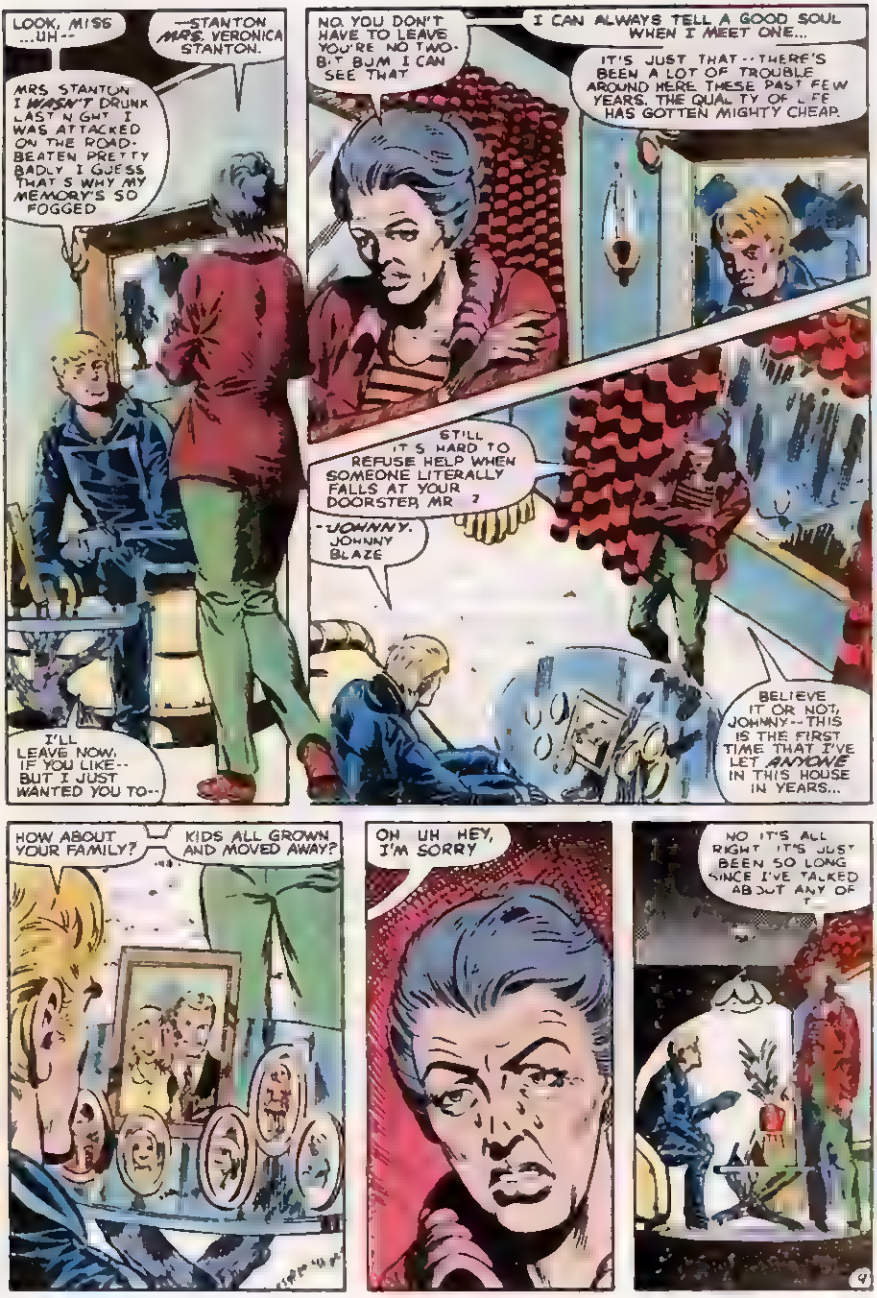
LOOK, MISS ...UH--
--STANTON MRS. VERONICA STANTON.
MRS. STANTON I WASN'T DRUNK LAST NIGHT I WAS ATTACKED ON THE ROAD. BEATEN PRETTY BADLY I GUESS THAT'S WHY MY MEMORY'S SO FOGGED
I'LL LEAVE NOW, IF YOU LIKE-- BUT I JUST WANTED YOU TO--
NO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE. YOU'RE NO TWO-BIT BUM I CAN SEE THAT
I CAN ALWAYS TELL A GOOD SOUL WHEN I MEET ONE...
IT'S JUST THAT--THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TROUBLE AROUND HERE THESE PAST FEW YEARS. THE QUALITY OF LIFE HAS GOTTEN MIGHTY CHEAP.
STILL IT'S HARD TO REFUSE HELP WHEN SOMEONE LITERALLY FALLS AT YOUR DOORSTEP, MR ?
-JOHNNY. JOHNNY BLAZE
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, JOHNNY--THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE LET ANYONE IN THIS HOUSE IN YEARS...
HOW ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?
KIDS ALL GROWN AND MOVED AWAY?
OH UH HEY, I'M SORRY
NO IT'S ALL RIGHT IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE TALKED ABOUT ANY OF T

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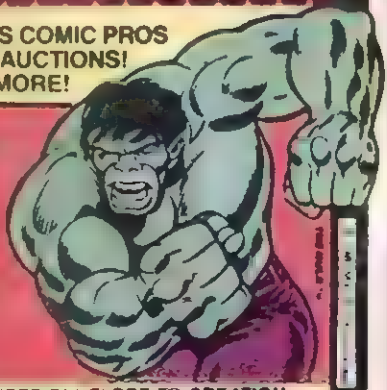

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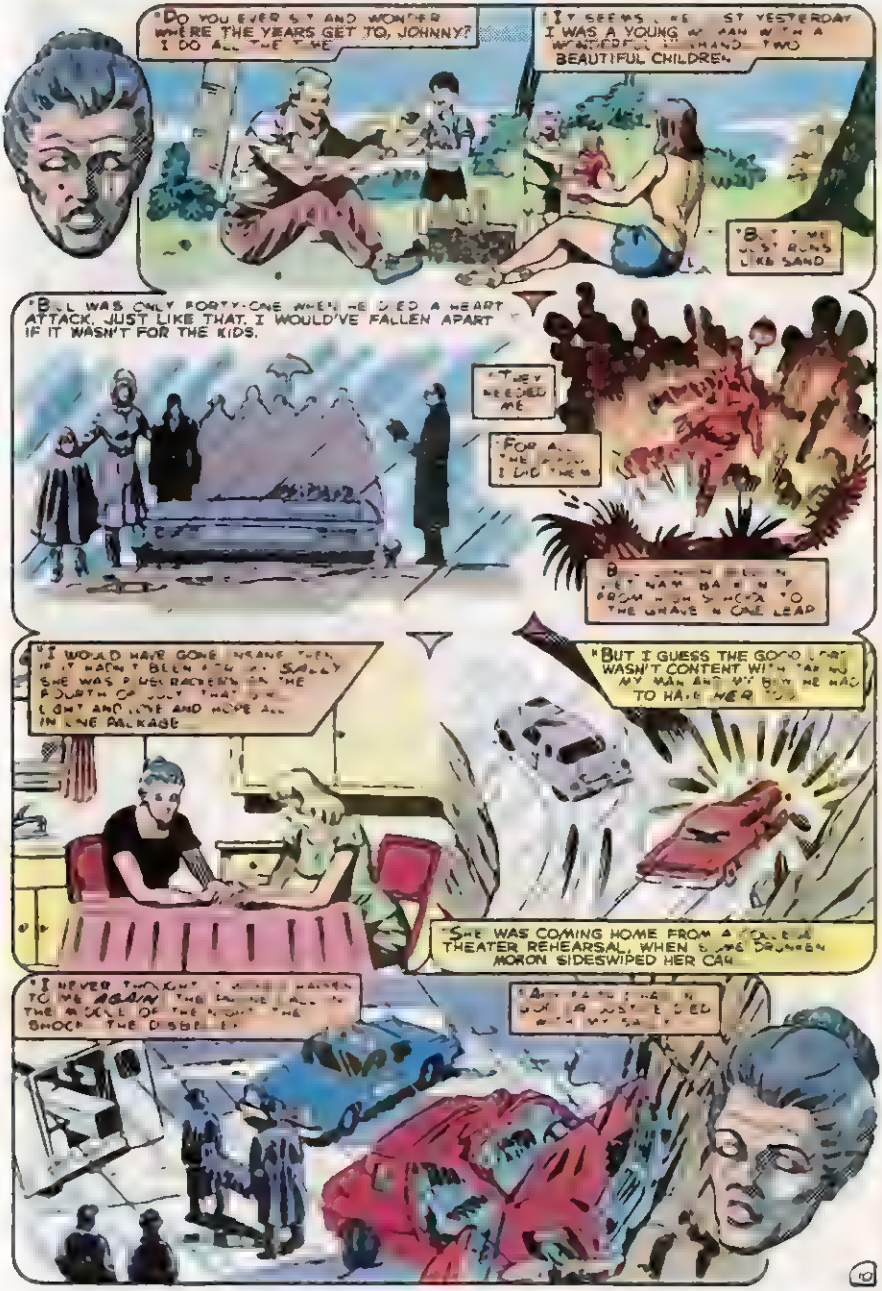
"DO YOU EVER SIT AND WONDER WHERE THE YEARS GET TO, JOHNNY? I DO ALL THE TIME
"IT SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY I WAS A YOUNG WOMAN WITH A WONDERFUL HUSBAND AND TWO BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN
"BILL WAS ONLY FORTY-ONE WHEN HE DIED A HEART ATTACK. JUST LIKE THAT. I WOULD'VE FALLEN APART IF IT WASN'T FOR THE KIDS.
"THEY NEEDED ME
"FOR A... THE FIRST I DID THEM
"I WOULD HAVE GONE INSANE THEN, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR SALLY. SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH THE FOURTH OF OUR THAT WE LIGHT AND LIVE AND HOPE ALL IN ONE PACKAGE
"BUT I GUESS THE GOOD LORD WASN'T CONTENT WITH TAKING MY MAN AND MY BOY. HE HAD TO HAVE HER TOO
"SHE WAS COMING HOME FROM A COLLEGE THEATER REHEARSAL WHEN SOME DRUNKEN MORON SIDESWIPED HER CAR
"I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE TO BE AGAIN. THE ENGINE ALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. THE SHOCK. THE DISBELIEF.
"AND FOR THE SECOND TIME IN MY LIFE, I JUST LIED ON THE FLOOR AND CRIED.

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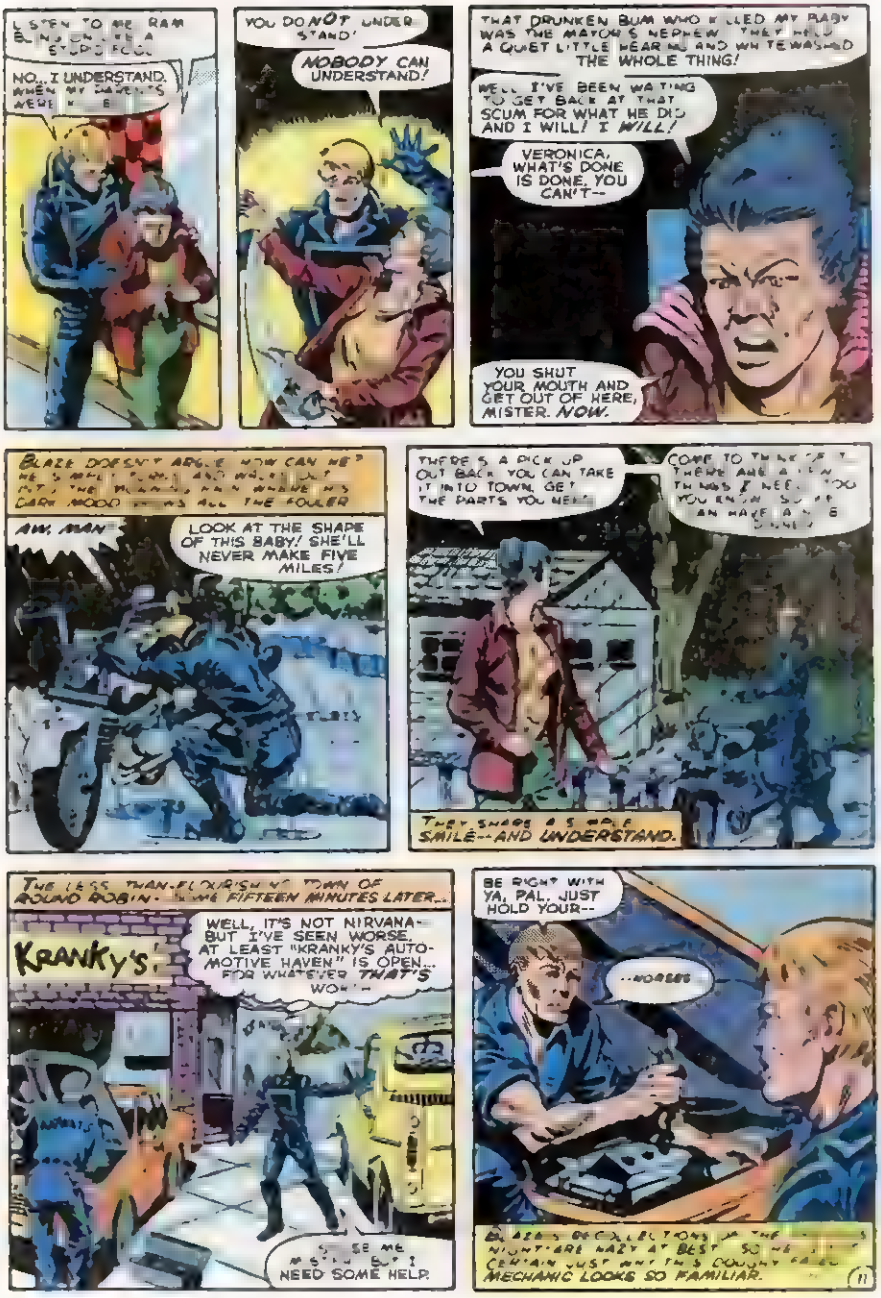
LISTEN TO ME RAM BLINKING LIKE A STUPID FOOL
NO, I UNDERSTAND. WHEN MY HANDS WERE IN B
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
NOBODY CAN UNDERSTAND!
THAT DRUNKEN BUM WHO KILLED MY BABY WAS THE MAYOR'S NEPHEW. THEY HELD A QUIET LITTLE HEARING AND WHITEWASHED THE WHOLE THING!
WELL I'VE BEEN WAITING TO GET BACK AT THAT SCUM FOR WHAT HE DID AND I WILL! I WILL!
VERONICA, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. YOU CAN'T--
YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND GET OUT OF HERE, MISTER. NOW.
BLADE DOESN'T ARGUE. HOW CAN HE? HE'S WHAT I AM, AND WHAT'S LEFT OF THE WOMAN WHO WAS HIS CAREGIVER WAS ALL THE FOULER
AW, MAN--
LOOK AT THE SHAPE OF THIS BABY! SHE'LL NEVER MAKE FIVE MILES!
THERE'S A PICK UP OUT BACK. YOU CAN TAKE IT INTO TOWN, GET THE PARTS YOU NEED
COME TO THE HOUSE. THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I NEED. YOU CAN SEE AN HAVE A NICE DRINK
THEY SHARE A SMILE--AND UNDERSTAND.
THE LESS THAN-ELYSIAN TOWN OF ARGUND ROBIN. SOME FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...
KRANKY'S
WELL, IT'S NOT NIRVANA- BUT I'VE SEEN WORSE. AT LEAST "KRANKY'S AUTOMOTIVE HAVEN" IS OPEN... FOR WHATEVER THAT'S WORTH--
SEE ME MISTER, BUT I NEED SOME HELP.
BE RIGHT WITH YA, PAL. JUST HOLD YOUR--
--NOBLES
BLADE'S RECOLLECTIONS OF THE [illegible] NIGHT ARE HAZY AT BEST. SO HE ISN'T CERTAIN JUST WHY THIS COUNTY SEAT MECHANIC LOOKS SO FAMILIAR.
11

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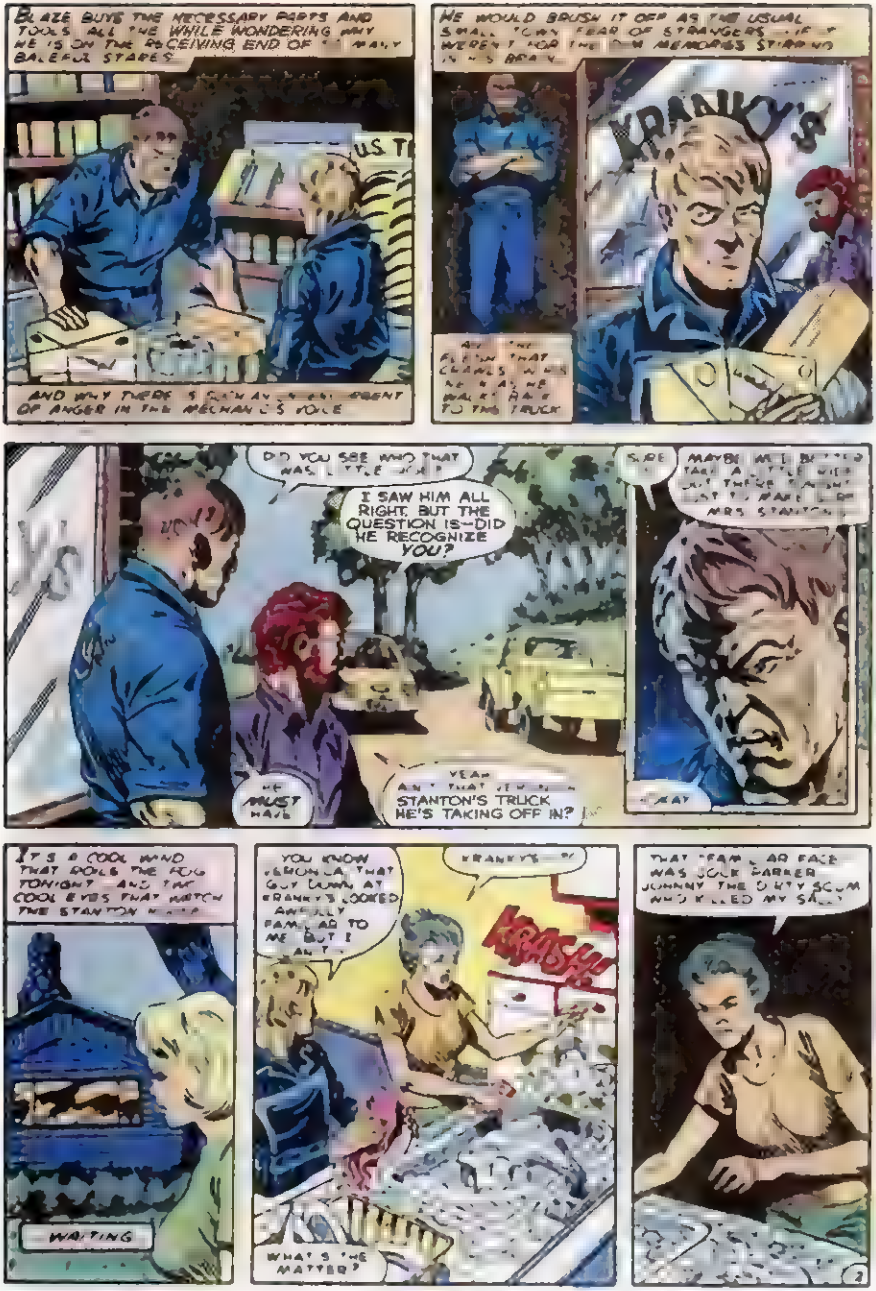
BLAZE BUYS THE NECESSARY PARTS AND TOOLS ALL THE WHILE WONDERING WHY HE IS ON THE RECEIVING END OF THE MALEVOLENT STARES
AND WHY THERE'S SUCH AN EVIL AURA OF ANGER IN THE MECHANIC'S VOICE
HE WOULD BRUSH IT OFF AS THE USUAL SMALL TOWN FEAR OF STRANGERS — IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE NEW MEMORIES STIRRING IN HIS BRAIN
AS THE FLESH THAT CLAIMS WHEN HE SAYS HE WALKS BACK TO THE TRUCK
KRANKY'S
DID YOU SEE WHO THAT WAS, LITTLE JOE?
I SAW HIM ALL RIGHT, BUT THE QUESTION IS—DID HE RECOGNIZE YOU?
HE MUST HAVE
YEAH AIN'T THAT STRANGE... STANTON'S TRUCK HE'S TAKING OFF IN?
SURE
MAYBE WE'D BETTER TAKE A LITTLE RIDE OUT THERE TONIGHT JUST TO MAKE SURE MRS. STANTON
OKAY
IT'S A COOL WIND THAT ROLLS THE FOG TONIGHT — AND THE COOL EYES THAT WATCH THE STANTON HOUSE
WAITING
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, THAT GUY DOWN AT KRANKY'S LOOKED AWFULLY FAMILIAR TO ME BUT I AIN'T...
KRANKY'S
KRASH!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THAT FAMILIAR FACE WAS JOCK BARKER JOHNNY THE DIRTY SCUM WHO KILLED MY SON!

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I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THAT WAS HIM AND HIS RAT PACK THAT WAYLAID YOU. LORD KNOWS, THEY'VE DONE THOSE KINDS OF THINGS BEFORE
Y'KNOW, JOCK... MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE
THAT THING THAT CAME AFTER US LAST NIGHT... MAYBE IT WAS A SIGN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT THING WAS, LITTLE JOE. BUT I GAVE UP BELIEVING IN SIGNS A LONG TIME AGO
BUT WELL... MRS. STANTON'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT Y'KNOW, AND--
SHE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT?! WHAT ABOUT ME?! BEFORE THAT ACCIDENT, I HAD A WIFE, KIDS!
THEY DIDN'T STICK AROUND TOO LONG AFTER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES SUCKED ME DRY!
I USED TO OWN THAT GAS STATION, REMEMBER--'STEADA JUST WORKING FOR A FLUNKIE'S WAGES!
I'VE BEEN LIVING IN HELL THESE PAST FEW YEARS!
"- AND I AIM TO SPREAD THAT HELL AROUND A BIT!"
I KNOW IT'S SILLY. BUT EVERY NIGHT I SIT DOWN WITH MY SALLY'S PICTURE AND JUST... TALK TO HER. I GUESS I STILL KEEP HOPING THAT SHE'LL COME BACK TO ME.
BLAZE WANTS DESPERATELY TO EASE THIS WOMAN'S PAIN.
BUT WE NEVER GETS THE CHANCE!
SAWSSSH
THE BRICK SHATTERS BOTH WINDOW AND MOOD.
ALL RIGHT- WHO THE DEVIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT--
13

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..THAT
I AM, PUNK! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
LOOK, MISTER - WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE WHY DON'T YOU JUST..
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SHUT UP!
NNNNNP
THE BLOW IS SWIFT SAVAGE. BLAZE SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR HALF CONSCIOUS
THE WORLD REELS AS SWEATY HANDS GRAB AT HIM AS HE'S DRAGGED WITH BRUTAL IN DIFFERENCE OFF THE
NOW THIS IS GONNA BE REAL SWELL
DRAWING BLOOD, ROPES BITE DEEP INTO HIS WRISTS, AS HE IS BOUND TO A TREE.
BUT DESPITE HIS PAIN, DESPITE HIS HUMILIATION, BLAZE WILL NOT GIVE IN TO THE SHRIEKING DEMON THAT STRAINS HIS SOUL, DEMANDING RELEASE.
NO. HE WILL NOT ANSWER THE GHOST RIDER'S VENGEANCE-CALL.
BUT THE DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE BURNS IN MANY HEARTS
AND IN SOME, THAT ALL IS HEARD
AND NEEDED
IS THIS WHAT IT'S COME TO, MOM?

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GHOST WRITERS!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

TOM DeFALCO
Editor
MARK GRUENWALD
Assistant Editor

Dear Tom

Ghost Rider is rapidly progressing towards the fullness of his true characterization. He is at last becoming a real spirit of vengeance. His guest appearances in AVENGERS #214 and WHAT IF #28 reflect this progression

There's no longer any doubt that Ghost Rider is a hell-spawned demon!

I can truly say that in my twenty-eight years of comics reading, both of conventional comics and unconventional undergrounds, GHOST RIDER is number one. Someday, this book will match — if not *beat* — the popularity of the X-MEN. (And I love the X-MEN!)

I've read every GHOST RIDER story from MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #5 on, and I can only hope that GHOST RIDER will continue on in many forms — comics, films, novels — well past my lifetime. And, hey, I'm only 34!

Thanks for your time.

Jeffrey Allen
5700 S.W. 31st Street
Miami, FL 33155

Don't mention it, Jeff — we're always happy to take time out to listen to suggestions, paens of praise, and— uip! — occasional critiques. We just hope you have a very long and happy life!

Funny you should mention films, though! A major producer has optioned our Brimstone Biker for a possible upcoming motion picture. We'll tell you more as things develop!

Dear Guys,

GHOST RIDER #63 was really okay! Bringing back the Orb was great, but I have to ask... whatever happened to Roxanne Simpson? And how about bringing back the Enforcer... or Brahma Bill... or Dr. Druid, Manticore or the Gladiator... or even Beppo Sabatini!

Face facts, guys... you don't get no respect! Ghost Rider gets to take off and hang out in other comics — such as DEFENDERS and AVENGERS — but no one ever drops by his mag! Let's see some guest-stars and guest villains like Dr. Doom, Shockwave, Diablo, or Blacklash. A being with as much power as Ghost Rider shouldn't be wasting his time on cheap hoods and hold-up men.

At any rate, I have the feeling that GHOST RIDER is really taking a turn for the better

Phiippe R. Delean
1796 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10457

Some interesting suggestions, Philippe. The only thing is, the Ghost Rider doesn't think he's wasting his time when he goes after "cheap hoods and hold-up men." He enjoys wreaking his vengeance on *any* guilty party, regardless of power or stature!

Dear Tom,

I've just recently started collecting GHOST RIDER, and though I already have close to twenty back issues, I do have a few questions.

For instance, how did Johnny Blaze become the Ghost Rider? I really would like to know more about the history of the Ghost Rider. Anything you could tell me would be appreciated.

I really have only one complaint about the series. I think that Johnny Blaze needs a girlfriend who is not afraid of the Ghost Rider, who will stick by him and not leave him as so many women have.

Amy Norris
13689 Troyon
Rockwood, MI 48173

Gee, that's a pretty tall order, Amy... the Ghost Rider is a pretty scary guy. It's almost impossible *not* to be afraid of him! Heck, ol' G.R. even scares Johnny, and they more or less share the same body!

Aside from that, though, we think you'll find most of your questions answered next issue, as we uncover some new secrets of the background of Johnny and the Ghost Rider!

Dear Ghost Writers,

I really enjoyed G.R.'s guest appearance in AVENGERS #214. It's sure to be a classic issue in the years to come.

One thing keeps weighing on my mind... just how does Ghost Rider rate, strengthwise, to other Marvel characters?

James Barnes
8341 Church Lane
Baltimore, MD 21207

Well, Jim, according to Spider-Man — in last summer's SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL — Ghost Rider is a "super-mediumweight" being. In other words, he's not as strong as the Thing or Sub-Mariner, but he's stronger than the Beast or Spider-Woman. Of course, that's by Spider-Man's reckoning, and the ol' Wall-crawler has been known to be wrong before!

It's an interesting question... what does Marveldom Assembled think of Ghost Rider's strength rating? Let us know, okay?

Hello, my crazy Flaming Friends.

I am beginning to find Flagg Fargo annoying... more than just a little annoying... *very annoying!* It's time for a rematch, and the time there should be a clear cut winner. The rivalry between Fargo and Johnny Blaze needs to be resolved.

How about seeing Dr. Druid back in these pages? And we need another full-time character... maybe another biker?

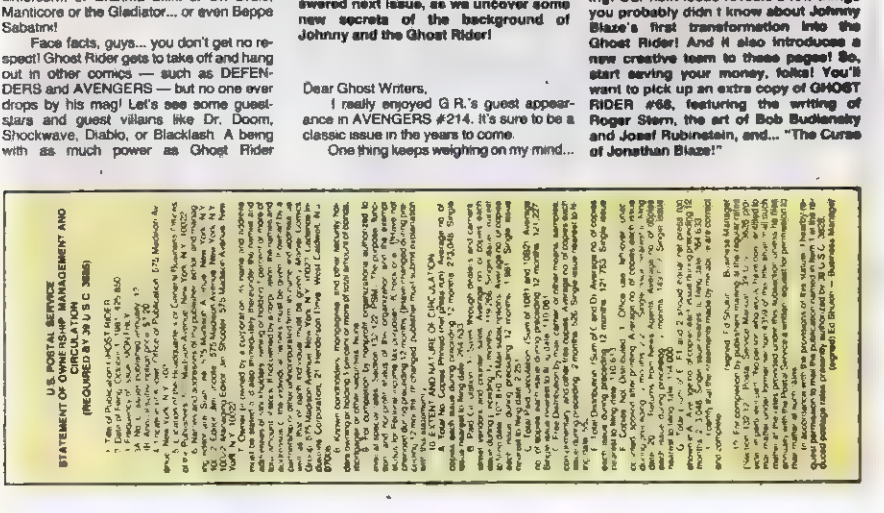
And bring back Brahma Bill!

Ellen B. Layendecker
856 La Mesa Drive
Portola Valley, CA 94025

Wow! Here we thought people had forgotten ol' Brahma Bill, and suddenly two readers — from different ends of the country — want to see him back!

Well... we'll see!

NEXT ISSUE: We mentioned this earlier on the page, but it deserves repeating! Our next issue reveals a few things you probably didn't know about Johnny Blaze's first transformation into the Ghost Rider! And it also introduces a new creative team to these pages! So, start saving your money, folks! You'll want to pick up an extra copy of GHOST RIDER #68, featuring the writing of Roger Stern, the art of Bob Budiansky and Josef Rubinstein, and... "The Curse of Jonathan Blaze!"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2. Mail Subscriptions	12,000	12,000
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(signed) Ed Brubaker – Business Manager

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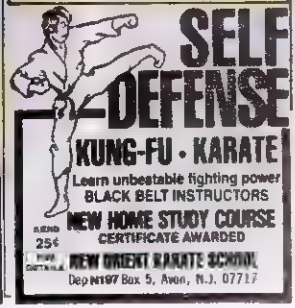

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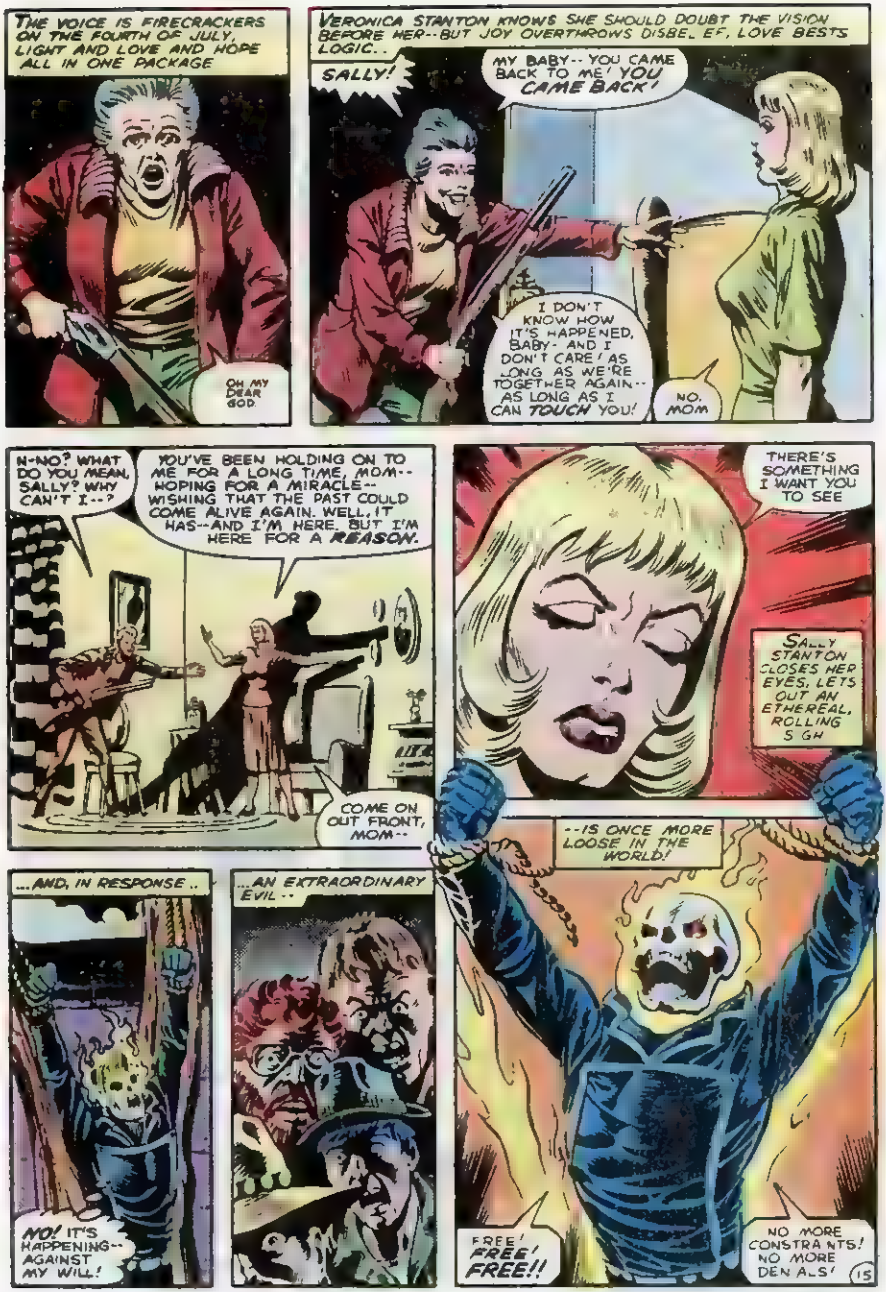
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OH MY DEAR GOD.
VERONICA STANTON KNOWS SHE SHOULD DOUBT THE VISION BEFORE HER--BUT JOY OVERTHROWS DISBELIEF, LOVE BESTS LOGIC..
SALLY!
MY BABY--YOU CAME BACK TO ME! YOU CAME BACK!
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S HAPPENED, BABY--AND I DON'T CARE! AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN--AS LONG AS I CAN TOUCH YOU!
NO, MOM
N-NO? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SALLY? WHY CAN'T I--?
YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING ON TO ME FOR A LONG TIME, MOM--HOPING FOR A MIRACLE--WISHING THAT THE PAST COULD COME ALIVE AGAIN. WELL, IT HAS--AND I'M HERE. BUT I'M HERE FOR A REASON.
COME ON OUT FRONT, MOM--
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO SEE
SALLY STANTON CLOSES HER EYES, LETS OUT AN ETHEREAL, ROLLING SIGH
--IS ONCE MORE LOOSE IN THE WORLD!
FREE! FREE! FREE!!
NO MORE CONSTRAINTS! NO MORE DENIALS!
15
...AND, IN RESPONSE..
NO! IT'S HAPPENING--AGAINST MY WILL!
...AN EXTRAORDINARY EVIL--

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I WILL HAVE THE SOULS DENIED ME LAST NIGHT--
--AND I WILL HAVE THEM NOW!!
WHAM!
NO!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MOM?
HA HA HA
KRAK
OOK, MOM - YOU'RE FINALLY GETTING WHAT YOU WANT THERE'S THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR VENGEANCE
THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF REVENGE!

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STUMMP!
"IS THIS THE JUSTICE YOU HUNGERED FOR?"
"OR DID JUST ONE MAN?
"TAKE A GOOD LONG LOOK AT HIM, MOM.
B-BUT--THEY TOOK YOU AWAY FROM ME, SAL! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY TOOK YOU AWAY... THEY H-HAVE TO PAY!
THE WORLD TAKE ME AWAY FROM YOU?
SKLEEEECH!
HA! HA! HA!
YARRGH!

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YOU DARE TO BEG FOR MERCY? YOU--WHO HAVE NONE IN YOUR OWN WRETCHED HEART?
YOU--WHO HAVE CAUSED DEATH AND GRIEF AND SUFFERING--
--WITH NO PITY SAVE FOR YOURSELF?
YOU ARE VERMIN, JOCK PARKER! YOU ARE HUMAN SLIME!
I'LL WASTE NO HELL-FIRE ON THE LIKES OF YOU!
NO-- I'LL SEND YOU INTO DEATH'S ICY EMBRACE--
WITH MY OWN BARE HANDS!
19

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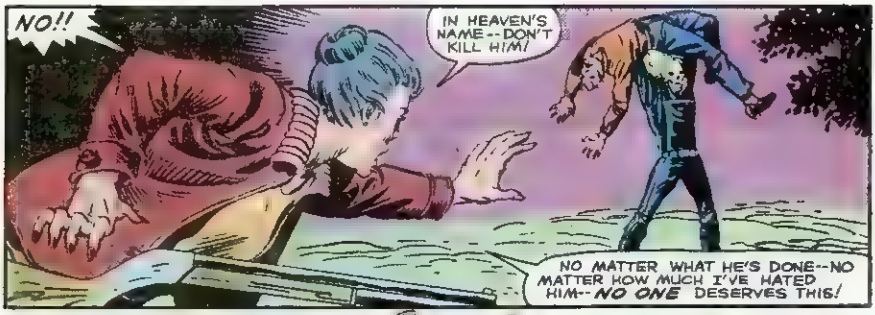
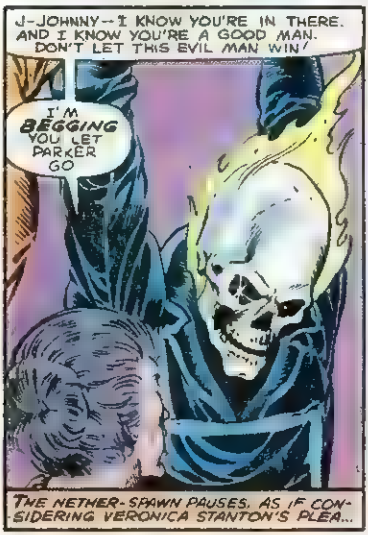
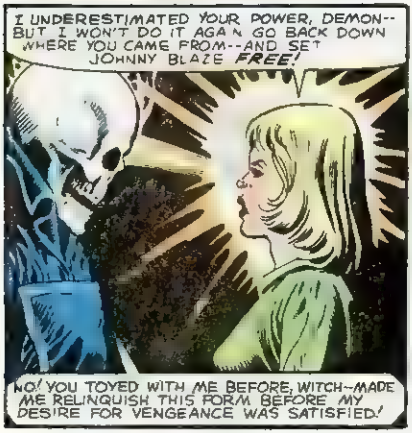
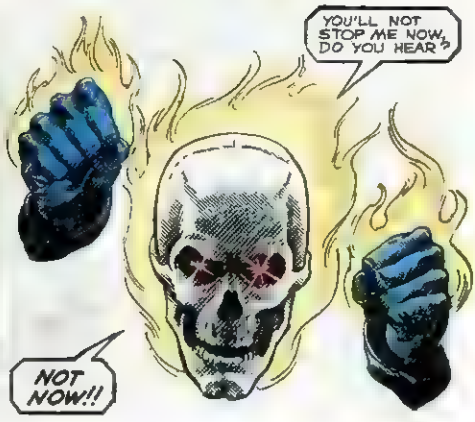



J-JOHNNY--I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. AND I KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD MAN. DON'T LET THIS EVIL MAN WIN!
I'M BEGGING YOU LET PARKER GO
THE NETHER-SPAWN PAUSES, AS IF CONSIDERING VERONICA STANTON'S PLEA...


I UNDERESTIMATED YOUR POWER, DEMON--BUT I WON'T DO IT AGAIN. GO BACK DOWN WHERE YOU CAME FROM--AND SET JOHNNY BLAZE FREE!
NO! YOU TOYED WITH ME BEFORE, WITCH--MADE ME RELINQUISH THIS FORM BEFORE MY DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE WAS SATISFIED!



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BULLPEN BULLETINS

HELLO, IT'S ME...

Yes, the back again, the world's largest Presidential impersonator, communicating to you through the magic of these funny shaped ink smudges because it's time, I dare say, that we got serious here and that means I get to do whatever I want. Amen!

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE DEPT

Long time readers can remember the days of yore when, as previously on reruns of the Peter Parker, Spider-Man cartoon suggested to condition a new story around a previously published reprinted story, along with an apology from us saying that we'd done it again and it won't happen anymore. (Applause.) That meant that the new story had not been done in time. Why not admit that, it happened because the artists and writers involved being human got sick and some people had a reserve crack get their due before it was subjugated by aliens for a week while they should have been working.

Now anyone out there who can't see that Marvel hasn't had a reprint since heads don't regrow for over four years? I've been out and about a few times, but we've never been in the [illegible] even since we've had the [illegible] and it's now further ahead of our printing schedules than we've ever been in our Forty-odd years of publishing! How, you might ask, did I accomplish such feat. Well, gang, here's the truth.

I've used for Marvel a current on-sentence gobbledygook formula. Traffic Manager keeps all the others down and the bosses when through a combination of love, understanding, and guerrilla tactics manage to get in the hall and on time. I can only hope she hasn't the "unsung heroine of the never ending war against missing deadlines."

Mike Pasciullo now Publishing Vice President and I are then pleased and congratulated for Mike's terrific progress achievement, but no one seems to notice the little lady who kept that giant schedule board up and down the halls. The lady with the bun in her hair, for that I am sincerely sorry. I'll make it up to you, sweetheart, I promise next week, from now on tomorrow (meaning tomorrow). It's time the record was set straight.

Thanks, Virginia, for all you do. You're the best Traffic Manager in the universe and a beautiful, wonderful person besides.

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT...

It's about time I mentioned the patient person ago who typesets all these words of wit, our own charming *Marian Stenagard* — mainly, because, if I don't she'll get mad and hoo noos what shee mite doo fur revenge?

OFF INTO THE SUNSET...

Tune in again next month when, in answer to numerous requests (no kidding) I'll explain what the word "Bullpen," as in "Marvel Bullpen," means. Also, as an added feature, I promise to run absolutely no pictures of Marvel Editors! Guaranteed!

May you find a pot o' kielbasa at the end of the rainbow!

JIM SHOOTER

THE HYPE BOX

Here's what we're jumping up and down about this month.

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #99 — The Thing and the Sandman go head to head for the greatest...

DAREDEVIL #101 — Special double-sized issue! [illegible] Burning Vengeance! [illegible] Frank Miller, Klaus Janson, Joe Rubinstein

MARVEL TALES #139 — Reprinting — in its entirety — *Amazing Spider-Man #1* by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO!

WHAT IF? #32 — *"What If the Avengers Were the Parents of Asroth?"* Next one, all of Marvel's super-heroes are suddenly gathered: the Watcher, the Stranger, the Collectors, the Grand Master and the High Evolutionary! [illegible] the Avengers, too. Written and drawn by MARK GRUENWALD with gennuh by GREG LaROCQUE

BIZARRE ADVENTURES #28 — Because you demanded it! The return of *Paradox!* In untold tale by BILL MANTLO and [illegible] and [illegible]

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #1 — Join us as we gather in a new and [illegible] story setting with the first of Marvel's new original graphic novels as we get things off to a starting beginning, we've got the long-awaited epic entitled, *"The Death Of Captain Marvel!"* Written and drawn by JIM STARLIN, this 48 page superdooperer tale [illegible] will be here [illegible] [illegible] high quality paper. It's only $4.95, and the [illegible] [illegible] shops only. We think you'll find the price and the page[illegible] worth the trouble. We know you will.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

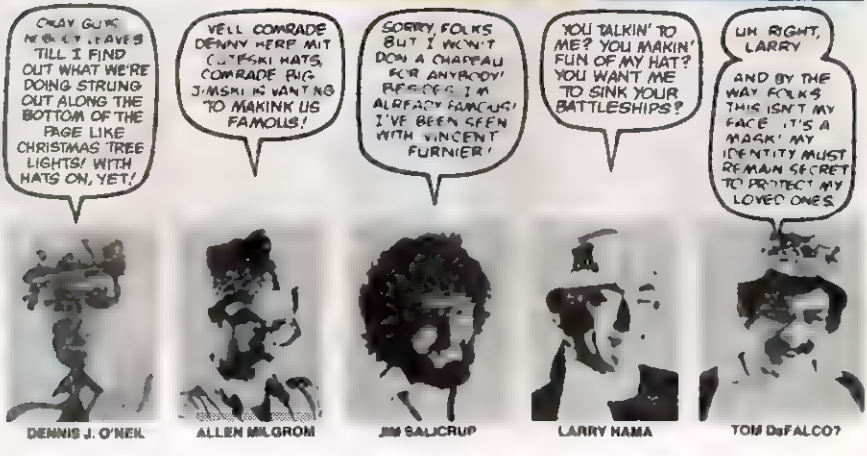
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #99 — The Thing and the Sandman
SPIDER-WOMAN #43
DAZZLER #14
KA-ZAR #13
DENNIS THE MENACE #6
DAREDEVIL #101 — Special double-sized issue!
GIANT SILVER SURFER #1 — This one to end!
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #227
CAPTAIN AMERICA #309
THOR #318
MICRONAUTS #49
GHOST RIDER #67
MOON KNIGHT #18
DR. STRANGE #57
INCREDIBLE HULK #270
AVENGERS #218
CONAN #133
MARVEL TALES #139 — Reprinting — in its entirety — Amazing Spider-Man #1 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO!
X-MEN #156
ROM #29
POWER MAN IRON FIST #80
FANTASTIC FOUR #241
MARVEL TEAM-UP #116 — Spider-Man and Wolverine and the mighty Thor!
IRON MAN #157
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #66
DEFENDERS #106
STAR WARS #48
MASTER OF KUNG FU #111
WHAT IF? #32 — Featuring the Avengers, Galactus, the Watcher, the Collectors, the Stranger, the Grand Master and the High Evolutionary! Whew.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

CRAZY #94 — An American Reminiscence of [illegible] the Times Square and [illegible]
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #78
BIZARRE ADVENTURES #28 — The return of *Paradox!*

SPECIAL EVENTS

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #1 — The "DEATH" of CAPTAIN MARVEL! The beginning of a new era of [illegible] storytelling, see page One for details!


OKAY GUYS, NOBODY LEAVES TILL I FIND OUT WHAT WE'RE DOING STRUNG OUT ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE LIKE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS! WITH HATS ON, YET!
VELL COMRADE DENNY HERE MIT CUTESKI HATS, COMRADE BIG JIMSKI IS WANTING TO MAKINK US FAMOUS!
SORRY FOLKS BUT I WON'T DON A CHAPEAU FOR ANYBODY! BESIDES, I'M ALREADY FAMOUS! I'VE BEEN SEEN WITH VINCENT FURNIER!
YOU TALKIN' TO ME? YOU MAKIN' FUN OF MY HAT? YOU WANT ME TO SINK YOUR BATTLESHIPS?
UH, RIGHT, LARRY
AND BY THE WAY FOLKS THIS ISN'T MY FACE, IT'S A MASK! MY IDENTITY MUST REMAIN SECRET TO PROTECT MY LOVED ONES.

DENNIS J. O'NEIL — ALLEN MILGROM — JIM SALICRUP — LARRY HAMA — TOM DeFALCO?

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CAPTAIN AMERICA IN "FURY UNLEASHED!"

THE TRAPSTER'S AT IT AGAIN-- ONE TRAP LEADS TO ANOTHER.
BETTER NOT COME ANY CLOSER, CAP. THE TRAPSTER'S GOON HAS ME BY THE NECK!
MEANWHILE, THE TRAPSTER WATCHES FROM ANOTHER ROOM!
HAH! WE'LL SEE HOW CAPTAIN AMERICA SOLVES THIS DILEMMA!
MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD WON'T SOLVE THIS MESS-- BUT STRATEGY CAN.
OKAY, YOU BIG OVERGROWN GOLIATH... I BET YOU CAN'T WAIT TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THESE HOSTESS FRUIT PIES.
WHAT IS FURY COMPARED TO THIS GREAT TASTE? REAL FRUIT FILLING! LIGHT, TENDER CRUST!
HOSTESS FRUIT PIES! THAT WAS USING YOUR BRAINS, CAP!
HOSTESS FRUIT PIES! CURSES! CAPTAIN AMERICA IS AS SMART AS HE IS STRONG!

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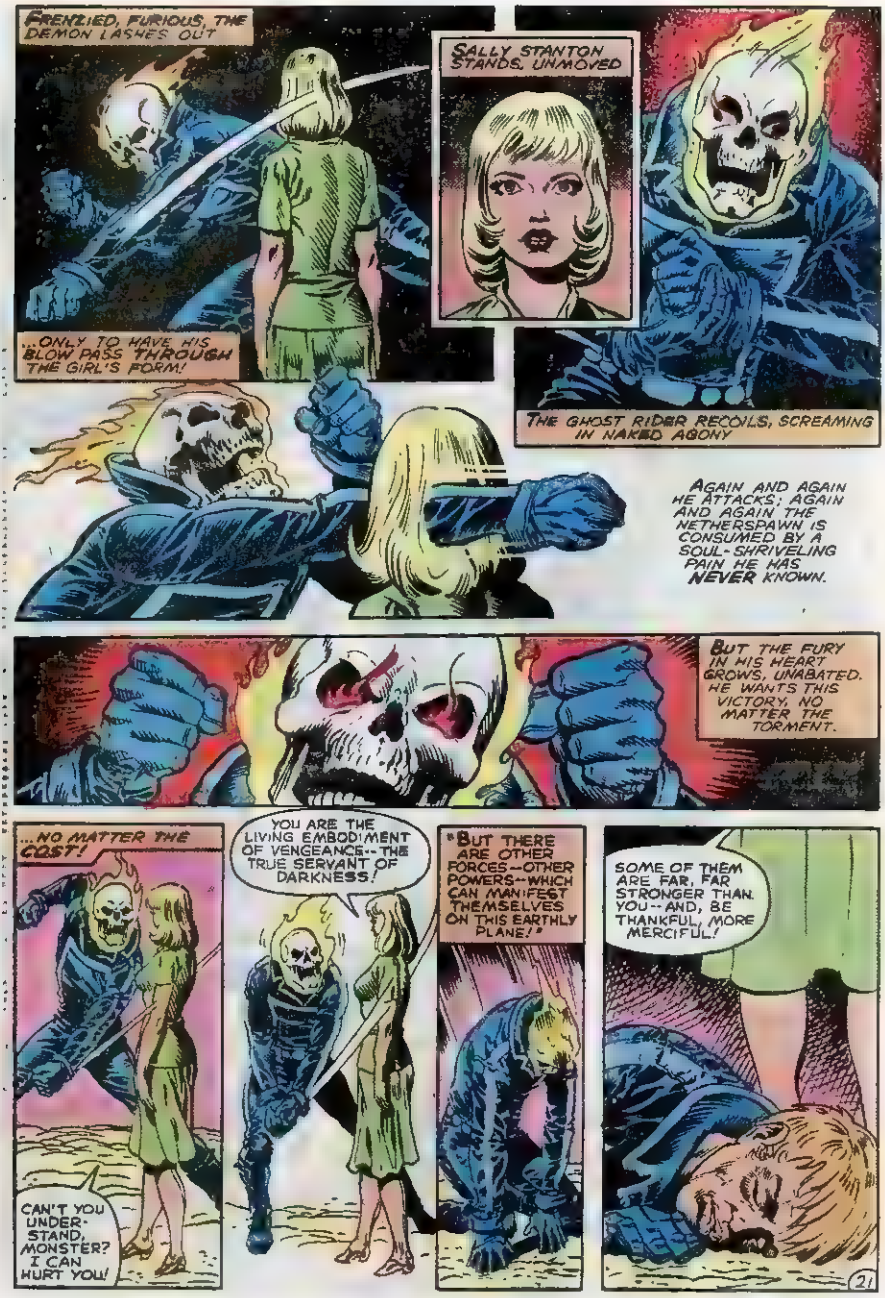
FRENZIED, FURIOUS, THE DEMON LASHES OUT
...ONLY TO HAVE HIS BLOW PASS THROUGH THE GIRL'S FORM!
SALLY STANTON STANDS, UNMOVED
THE GHOST RIDER RECOILS, SCREAMING IN NAKED AGONY
AGAIN AND AGAIN HE ATTACKS; AGAIN AND AGAIN THE NETHERSPAWN IS CONSUMED BY A SOUL-SHRIVELING PAIN HE HAS NEVER KNOWN.
BUT THE FURY IN HIS HEART GROWS, UNABATED. HE WANTS THIS VICTORY, NO MATTER THE TORMENT.
...NO MATTER THE COST!
CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND, MONSTER? I CAN HURT YOU!
YOU ARE THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF VENGEANCE--THE TRUE SERVANT OF DARKNESS!
"BUT THERE ARE OTHER FORCES--OTHER POWERS--WHICH CAN MANIFEST THEMSELVES ON THIS EARTHLY PLANE!"
SOME OF THEM ARE FAR, FAR STRONGER THAN YOU--AND, BE THANKFUL, MORE MERCIFUL!
21

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JOHNNY BLAZE MOANS AND THE GIRL TURNS AWAY, BUT HER WORK IS NOT DONE... YET.
I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW, MOM. AND I CAN'T COME BACK AGAIN. EVER.
N-NO, BABY. DON'T SAY THAT.
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE AGAIN.
YOU CAN'T HOLD ON TO WHAT WAS, MOM. IT'S TIME TO LET THE PAST GO.
YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE ME, BILLY, AND DADDY--IN YOUR HEART...
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO MOVE ON NOW, MOM. WE'VE ALL GOT TO MOVE ON...
SALLY... NO...
"THERE'S SO MUCH LOVE TO BE FOUND IN THIS WORLD--
...UNGH...
"--BUT, TO FIND IT, YOU'VE GOT TO REACH OUT.
--HELP...ME...
"REACH OUT FOR LIFE, MOM...
"...HOLD TIGHT TO THAT...
"...AND DON'T EVER LET GO."
END

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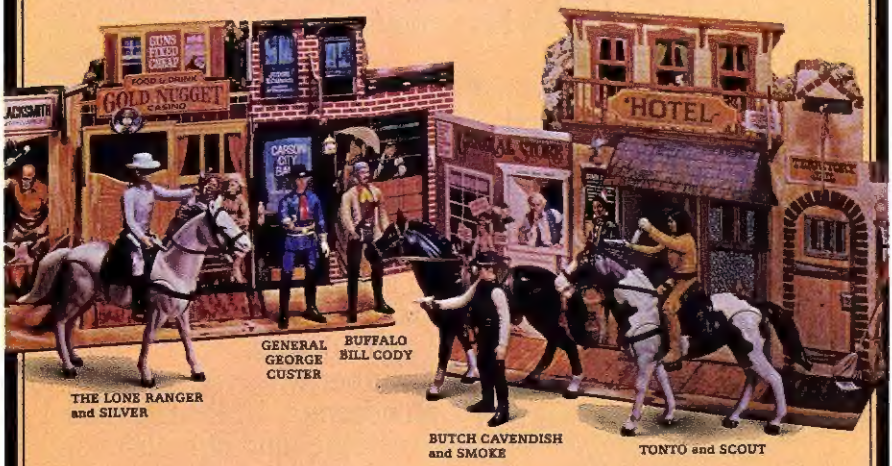

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